

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2015**

**Course** RELS 335 L01: Ritual & Religion  
**Time** T R 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM  
**Instructor** Prof. E. Segal  
**Office Hours** Thursday 12:15 – 1:00 PM  
**Office** SS 548  
**E-mail** [eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca](mailto:eliezer.segal@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone** 403.220.3279

**Required Text(s):**

Gwynne, Paul. *World Religions in Practice: A Comparative Introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2009.

Grimes, Ronald L. *The Craft of Ritual Studies*. Oxford University Press, 2013.

**Course Description:**

A major form of religious expression consists of the various practices and rituals performed by individuals and the community

This course will survey a selection of representative rituals from eastern and western religious traditions, with special emphasis on life cycle (birth, marriage, death, etc.) commemorations and sacred time (liturgy, holidays). This portion of the material will be derived primarily from the Gwynne text.

In addition, you will be introduced to some of the theoretical and methodological components underlying academic “ritual studies” as presented by R. Grimes, illustrated principally through his ethnographic research into the annual Santa Fé *Fiesta*.

**Online elements for this course:**

The course will incorporate a set of on-line videos about the Santa Fé Fiesta produced by R. Grimes to accompany his book [<http://vimeo.com/album/1557600>].

**Core Competencies:**

Students will work on the following skills: critical appraisal of arguments and theories; practical application of theories and concepts presented in course readings and lectures; and clear expression of ideas.

**Course Requirements:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight (%)</b>
To be chosen by the student.	9 short (about 250 words) personal responses to class readings or videos (at least three apiece for the Gwynne and Grimes texts).	45%

Mar 9, 2015	“Design your own ritual” exercise	5%
Mar 31, 2015	Research proposal with preliminary bibliography	10%
Apr 14, 2015	Research essay: applying theory to specific rituals	40%

**There will be no Registrar-administered examination in this course.**

**Grading**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

**Electronic Device Policy:**

Although respectful use of laptops or tablets for academic purposes is allowed, if students use them for non-academic purposes in class, they will be asked to leave, possibly forfeiting some grades. Texting in class is to be limited to emergencies or urgent matters only (i.e., under normal circumstances: never). Please respect your fellow students and me by avoiding distracting use of these devices.

**Syllabus:**

**A complete syllabus will be made available the first week of class.**

**References and Bibliography:**

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>). If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than **fourteen (14) days** after the start of the course.

### **Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

### **Gnosis**

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

### **Classics Student Society**

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [classsoc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative**

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### **Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints). Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

**Safewalk**

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.